

# THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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BY TELEGRAPH.

St. Louis, 9.

The *Democrat* publishes the following:—  
The expedition of Gen. Steele towards Shreveport has ended. A gentleman conversant with facts communicates the following in regard to the expedition:—Steele found no stores to subsist his troops and had to reduce their allowance to quarter rations; as the movement was to be in co-operation with the main one of Banks, which had failed, there remained no course but to return to Little Rock. Price undertook to detain Steele at Camden, while Marmaduke, with a strong force, set off for Little Rock; Steele, for the safety of the Arkansas capitol with its Union population and millions of dollars worth of Federal stores, and to rescue his army, broke through Price's and set out to get to Little Rock in time to save it from Marmaduke, who was making every exertion to bag the proposed game. At Sabine Fork it became necessary to give Price battle, in which he handsomely drove the rebels; the fight was protracted and bloody, lasting 3 or 4 hours, and resulted in the complete repulse of the enemy, leaving Steele to resume his exciting race with Marmaduke. The latter approached Little Rock, throwing shells into the town on the afternoon of the 1st; shortly afterwards, Carr's cavalry came up, and joining the troops at the post compelled Marmaduke to relinquish his undertaking; he made little resistance, as the main body of Steele's army was rapidly arriving. During the entire march from Camden the troops were constantly skirmishing with the enemy, who hung upon their rear flanks, strenuously endeavoring to impede their progress. There were no ambulances for the wounded, and they had to be left in the houses of the residents on the road. Our informant represents Steele's cavalry deplorably deficient in horses. Price's forces are still lingering in the vicinity, and were stripping anew the often desolated country.

New York, 10.

A *Herald* special has the following in regard to the battles on Friday and Saturday:

At 5 o'clock in the morning the contest was renewed against our line, and the roar of battle came from a quarter from which, by certain indications, it was concluded that Lee was reinforcing Longstreet, on Hancock's front, and a part of Burnside's corps was accordingly moved to his support, taking position to the left of Gen. Warren, completely filling the gap into which two brigades had been thrown the preceding evening. On moving at daylight towards the assigned position through a close forest, they found it occupied by rebels prepared to dispute its possession. The fighting at this point was over by 9 o'clock, it being found impossible to dislodge the rebels from their position. Early in the morning Hancock was driven back close to his breastworks by a superior force, but subsequently rallied his men and succeeded in regaining most of the ground between 10 and 11 o'clock; however Longstreet succeeded in turning the left of his advance and throwing it into great confusion; this extended along the entire line, and came near involving the whole corps in inextricable confusion. He was once more forced back to his breastworks, and the rebels actually planted their colors inside, but could not sustain themselves, and were ejected. At this time heavy reinforcements were thrown to Hancock's support from Burnside's corps, and his men were rallied and taken well in hand, and all danger of further disaster was removed. The charge of Longstreet was completely overwhelming; solid masses of infantry were hurled upon Hancock time after time, with an impetuosity that nothing could withstand. It was exceedingly fortunate for the 6th corps and the whole army that he was checked at a critical period, and driven back with as much precipitation as he came. The ground in front of Hancock had been fought over a number of times, and the number of wounded and dying on the field was very large. At night Hancock occupied his breastworks, and had nothing but prisoners and rebel dead to show for the slaughter of two days fighting. He behaved with conspicuous gallantry throughout; he was on the field in person where the dangers were thickest. The corps retained its first position till dark. About midnight a charge was made which caused it to give way, and it was unable to regain the ground thus lost; this of course compelled the abandonment of a great portion of the line of breastworks in front of this corps, and brought the skirmish line within half a mile of Grant and Meade's headquarters. Sedgwick's corps maintained itself against the vigorous assault of a superior number at different times during the day, and had no serious reverse until late in the evening, when a charge was made on its extreme right for the purpose of turning it, as was done with Hancock in the morning. Milroy's old division was finally driven back in great confusion, and the enemy succeeded in effectually turning our right flank. The behavior of this

division was severely criticised by those supposed to know the most concerning the affair. The battle recommenced at daylight on Saturday, but the firing was desultory and scattering; no fierce attacks were made by either side, both Generals being intent on strategy, and neither being anxious to bring on a general engagement. Lee was intent on cutting our communication via Germania ford, and Grant appeared to be utterly indifferent to this, he seemed rather to court it by withdrawing Sedgwick's force from his position, and throwing it back by Germania near his own headquarters, and pushing Burnside out on the Spottsylvania Court House road, threatening Lee's line of communication. The new line of battle formed by the change in the position of corps extended nearly north and south, and gave Lee the choice of being cut off from his capital and risking everything upon the wage of battle. At 2 p.m. Burnside was well under way to Spottsylvania, and the result could only be a precipitate retreat on the part of Lee to prevent our army being thrown between himself and Richmond, or to contest a battle that could only end in his extermination.

By the Hansa, from Southampton, 28th. The Alexandria has been given up to her owners.

The Alabama put into Capetown for coal and supplies, March 20. Semmes says he destroyed 7 Federal vessels during his cruise in the Indian seas; he estimates the damage to the Federals at \$5,000,000.

The Germans had advanced into Jutland and occupied Horsens. The Danes are strengthening their batteries on Olsen sound.

Washington, 10.

A messenger from Spottsylvania Court House, yesterday morning, states that Hancock was compelled to retire on the Spottsylvania road until joined by Burnside, when he held his ground. On Sunday morning the battle was renewed, and we drove the rebels to Po river. Yesterday morning we put artillery into play, and when the messenger left, heavy cannonading was going on. It is believed that Lee will make a stand on North Anna river. In the three days operations we captured about 3,500 prisoners, and lost about 12,000 killed, wounded and prisoners.

New York, 10.

A special to the *Post* says troops are constantly arriving from the north.

Only about 90 men and 5 officers are left of the 4th Vermont regiment.

It is said that between 2 and 3000 rebel wounded are at Fredericksburg, left in the field by their friends.

An official dispatch says Gen. Sedgwick was killed in the battle at Spottsylvania yesterday.

A Charleston telegram says nearly a hundred shells were thrown at Sumter on Friday morning and Saturday night; 90 were thrown into the City on Saturday, and 10 on Sunday.

Chicago, 11.

Bermuda Hundred.—Fighting commenced at noon yesterday, and continued till night, between several of our brigades under General Smith and the rebels commanded by Beauregard in person; our forces drove the enemy back 3 miles, nearly to Petersburg; we hold the railroad between there and Richmond.

New York, 11.

A despatch from Stanton says there was some hard fighting at Spottsylvania, but no general battle. The army is represented in excellent condition and with ample supplies. Gen. Wright is placed in command of Sedgwick's corps. Grant did not design to renew the attack yesterday, being engaged in replenishing from his supply train, so that he could advance without it.

All the battles thus far have been a series of attacks and repulses; muskets have been almost entirely used, as the swampy nature of the ground rendered artillery impracticable.

Lee very absurdly claims a victory, when he withdraws from our front and retires toward Richmond.

Gen. Tarbett's division of cavalry whipped the rebel cavalry near this place, and drove them from Spottsylvania Court House, but being reinforced with infantry they drove our cavalry a short distance; the fighting was exceedingly fierce. Generals Tarbett and Robinson were both wounded.

Gen. Sedgwick was shot through the head on Monday morning by sharpshooters.

By the City of Manchester, from Liverpool, 27th. It is affirmed that the French government will not prevent the two fast steamers launched at Nantes, 23d, for the rebels, from being armed, notwithstanding Dayton's remonstrance.

No more fighting in Denmark. The Prussians are penetrating Jutland in force. It is said that Prussia and Austria have declined an armistice on the basis of the continuance of the blockade of the German ports.

Washington, 11.

The Senate have instructed their committee on the conduct of the war to enquire into the Red river disaster.

New York, 11.

The *Tribune* has the following in regard to the battles:—After that of Saturday, General Warren's corps passed through Todd's Tavern on Saturday night toward the front, and at sunrise was within two and a half miles of Spottsylvania Court House; they were immediately put into action, to relieve the cavalry; the enemy were also just in time for a similar movement, and Stuart's cavalry were simultaneously relieved by Longstreet's corps tired with a long night march; they rushed into action on the double quick, Gen. Robinson's division leading the charge; the rebels retired before them, and we pushed them on for 3 miles; the last engagement of this morning's fight was a severe one; our losses were great; we charged them so impetuously that our men were outflanked on the left, and had to fall back a short distance from our lines, but the enemy gained no advantage, for our artillery was brought into action, and the rebels were unable to occupy the position which our men had abandoned. The 5th corps suffered in the previous fight so severely that there was not a single division of it in perfect fighting trim. About noon, batteries were posted, ours on the edge of a piece of woods, theirs on an opposing hill; the discharge of shell for some time was quite brisk and severe. As evening approached, the troops from the 5th and 6th corps, in several heavy lines, were concentrated in front of the position to which the rebels had fallen back after the engagement in the early part of the day; Gen. Wright's division took the lead. At 7.15 p.m., as the light began to fade away, the heat of firing began to cease, and the enemy commenced to give way. We had beaten the enemy; and had driven them from the position which they had so strongly contested, but the darkness was so great that we could not safely press them farther, and Spottsylvania Court House still remained that night in their hands. Monday morning was spent quietly in camp, both for much needed rest and for supplying the army with rations.

The *Tribune* says our losses in the battles on Sunday and Monday were at least 25,000. Grant and Meade were both at the front on Monday night, superintending Hancock's attack, who, under cover of artillery, crossed the Po, a branch of the Mattaponi, and pushed the enemy beyond the town. We now hold about 5,000 prisoners.

A Richmond paper, found on a prisoner, says Butler is within 13 miles of Richmond.

Washington, 11.

During the last 24 hours about 7,000 men from the army of the Potomac, wounded in the battles on Thursday and Friday have arrived; comparatively a few of them are suffering severely; many of them will soon be returned to the army.

It is reported here this morning that Gen. Warren was wounded yesterday, and died on his way to Fredericksburg; the rumor is generally believed.

New York, 12.

A *Herald*'s special says that on Tuesday, Gibbon's and Barlow's divisions were withdrawn from the south bank of the Po; Barlow's division was closely followed by the enemy, who was checked by our artillery posted along a ridge commanding the river Early.

During the day the whole army began to straighten out in line of battle for a renewal of the engagement, skirmishing being kept up between the advanced lines of the two armies, the enemy bestirring himself as though he intended offensive operations. Our line formed with the 2d corps on the right, the 5th in the centre, and the 6th on the left, with Burnside's corps in the rear of the left for the protection of the immense trains, and to act as a reserve in any emergency. The country here is quite rolling, studded with groves of pine and hardwood, affording much better facilities for handling troops and the use of artillery than about Wilder's.

The enemy during the night strengthened his formidable position with rifle pits, breastworks and barricades, rendering it stronger than any line of defence occupied by him since leaving the earthworks on the Rapidan. Thus matters stood until far into the afternoon, fighting being quite sharp at intervals at different points, but without anything definite. Five o'clock p.m. was fixed for the grand assault. General orders announcing the successes of Sherman in the west and Butler on James river were read to the troops, producing the wildest excitement. As the hour approached for attack, the enthusiasm of the troops became almost ungovernable. Grant, accompanied by his staff—Meade, Hancock and Warren, were all stationed on an eminence within sight of each other, while the vast columns of our army slowly gathered together for the great struggle. Just as the attack was about to be made, the enemy advanced on our right, threatening to press back that portion of the line, disconcerting for a time the plan of assault. Troops were hurried to the support on the right, and succeeded in check-

ing the rebels. Half-past 6 was then fixed upon for the assault; watches were compared by the corps commanders; they finally separated with orders to attack at an appointed time. At the appointed hour, simultaneously with the fire of 12 signal guns, the whole line advanced with cheers. The movement was indiscribably grand; a portion of the forces moved in solid column, while others advanced in the usual order of battle, the whole army moving together, and yet each command fighting its own battle. The whole rebel line opened a most murderous fire, against which our lines irresistibly swept on, driving the enemy slowly back from his positions, and capturing nearly 2,000 prisoners and 3 pieces of artillery, the latter, however, were retaken by the rebels. Night closed with our forces occupying the field. The loss is heavy, but, judging from the killed and wounded left in our hands, much less than the enemy's who fought to the last, our troops bayoneting their men in the rifle pits, forcing them by hand to hand conflicts to yield.

New York, 12.

The *Herald* correspondent says the most determined and persistent effort made in the fight in this locality was to turn our right; charge after charge was made by the enemy on our right, our men repulsed each charge; at length the 5th corps drove the enemy, compelling him to fall back into his third line of defenses. The effect of this repulse was apparent. The rebel dead at points lay piled in heaps. We made a general assault at 7 o'clock p.m.; it was the most magnificent and terrible one of the war. The batteries of the 4th corps, placed in very advantageous positions, as likewise the batteries of the other corps opened simultaneously and hurled their murderous missiles into the ranks of the enemy, accompanied by a general volley of musketry. From this hour till dark the combat deepened. Night left us victors on every side. Our lines were now advanced, and we had taken more prisoners than we had lost, but it has been another expensive victory; our losses are heavy, but it is believed those of the enemy far exceed ours. Our men are in good spirits, there is no give way to them.

The *Times* Washington special, 11th, says a distinguished officer, who left Grant in the saddle as late as 10 o'clock this morning sums up the bloody work of yesterday thus: The fight opened all along the lines; Longstreet's corps under Hill held the rebel right, resting about 2 miles north-east of Spottsylvania; Grant pitted Burnside's corps against it; at a given moment, later in the afternoon, Burnside precipitated his entire command, except the colored troops, upon the rebel front, driving in and completely crushing it, and capturing 3 rebel brigades and 4 pieces of cannon. The fight continued with a ferocity never before witnessed, until 9 o'clock, when night closed upon the bloodiest field of the war. The losses on both sides are very large. Of the rebel brigades captured, some escaped during the awful carnage which followed, but 1,200 of the captured were sent to the rear; this morning our informant talked with some of them before leaving to-day; they said they had been in every principal battle of the war, but never experienced such terrible fighting. The battle ceased at 3 o'clock, our line having advanced, Burnside occupying, at the end of the conflict, the intrenchments held by Longstreet's forces at the beginning of the fight; at 10 o'clock a.m. of the 11th, Burnside held the same position. Lee's army was then contracted into a sort of horse shoe form in and about the town of Spottsylvania Court House.

Halifax, 12.

By the Africa, from Liverpool, 30th. The Danes have evacuated Fredericks, and withdrawn to Furia Island.

Chicago, 12.

A joint resolution, providing that all the Major and Brigadier-Generals in the military service who, on the 1st of July next shall not be in the performance of duty corresponding with their rank, and who shall not have been engaged in such duty for 3 months continuously next prior to that date, shall be dropped from the rolls of the army, and all pay and allowances shall cease from that date, passed the House yesterday by a vote of 72 to 45.

The House concurred in the Senate amendment to the House bill establishing the money order system.

Cairo, 12.

On the 5th, the transports Emma and Guy Belle and the gunboat Signal were destroyed by a rebel battery 12 miles below Alexandria; the gunboat Covington was burned to prevent her falling into the hands of the rebels; this battery is composed of guns captured from Banks; that General still remained at Alexandria, strong enough to resist any attack made upon him.

Chicago, 12.

Gen. Crook left Charleston, on the Kanawha river in Western Virginia, on the 29th ult., with 22,000 infantry and cavalry, as a co-operative force against Richmond; his

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